

F5

WARPLANE FOR THE WORLD



Robbie Shaw



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

To illustrate an F-5 from every country which has operated the type is impossible, as many third world countries for some reason simply do not allow photography of even civil aircraft, let alone military ones. Fortunately in the West most countries are helpful, and with the exception of the Greek Air Force who were totally obstructive as usual, I would like to thank those in North America and Europe for their assistance — in particular, thanks must go to the

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Unless otherwise credited, all photographs were taken by the author using Kodachrome film.

ABBREVIATIONS

AAM	Air to Air Missile
AB	Air Base
ACMI	Air Combat Manoeuvring Instrumentation
AETE	Aerospace Engineering and Test Establishment
AFB	Air Force Base
AIDC	Aero Industry Development Centre
AS	Aggressor Squadron
CAF	Canadian Armed Forces
CCTS	Combat Crew Training Squadron
CFPTS	Canadian Forces Flying Training School
CW	Composite Wing
DAC'T	Dissimilar Air Combat Training
FAB	Força Aerea Brasileira
FAC	Fuerza Aerea de Chile
FAM	Fuerza Aerea Mexicana
FW	Fighter Wing
FWS	Fighter Weapons School
IIAF	Imperial Iranian Air Force
LEX	Leading Edge Extension
MAP	Military Assistance Programme
RCAF	Royal Canadian Air Force

RJAF	Royal Jordanian Air Force
RNLAF	Royal Netherlands Air Force
RNoAF	Royal Norwegian Air Force
ROCAF	Republic of China Air Force
ROKAF	Republic of Korea Air Force
RSAP	Royal Saudi Air Force
SVNAF	South Vietnamese Air Force
TAC	Tactical Air Command
TFTAS	Tactical Fighter Training Aggressor Squadron
TFTS	Tactical Fighter Training Squadron
TFW	Tactical Fighter Wing
TNI-AU	Tentara Nasional Indonesia – Angkatan Udara
TTW	Tactical Training Wing
TUDM	Tentara Udara Diraja Malaysia
USAF	United States Air Force
USMC	United States Marine Corps
USN	United States Navy
VF	Naval Fighter Squadron
VFA	Naval Fighter Attack Squadron
VHF	Very High Frequency
VMFT	Marine Fighter Training Squadron

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England

INTRODUCTION

On 10 July 1989, only a few weeks short of the thirtieth anniversary of the first flight of the Northrop F-5, three passed through Prestwick on delivery from Palmdale, California en-route to the Republic of Singapore Air Force. These were the last of nearly 3,000 F-5s to be delivered, thereby ending a production run of exceptional length for a modern warplane.

The story of the F-5 began back in the 1950s, when Northrop was one of a number of manufacturers looking to develop a simple, cheap, lightweight fighter. In 1955 the company proposed its project, the N156 series, with seven configurations, including a carrier-borne variant. The N156T two seat tandem trainer was the first success — subject to successful flight tests, and was selected by the USAF's Air Training Command as a T-33 replacement. The aircraft took to the air for the first time on 10 April 1959, and was soon in production as the T-38 Talon. Almost 1,200 Talons were built, not only for the USAF, but the US Navy and NASA received small numbers, whilst some were exported under the Military Assistance Programme (MAP).

The 425 TFTS was initially a component of the Luke-based 58 TTW, later transferring to the 405 TTW, also based at Luke. The F-5s therefore were frequent visitors to Luke AFB, where this E model was photographed alongside an F-15 from a sister unit in the 405 TTW.

The N156F proposal was for a single seat lightweight fighter with two fuselage-mounted afterburning engines. The design was virtually identical to the Talon and had the same wing span. The wing had leading edge extension (LEX) and removable wing tip fuel tanks. To reduce the landing roll a brake parachute was fitted, as was an arrester hook for emergencies. Primary armament consisted of two 20mm M-39 cannons, and an AIM-9 Sidewinder air to air missile (AAM) on each wingtip — if no tip tanks were carried. Centreline and two wing mounted pylons could be used to carry an assortment of rockets, bombs or long range fuel tanks.

The company received the go-ahead in 1958 to produce three prototypes and a static test airframe. By the time of its maiden flight on 30 July 1959, only four months after that of its sister aircraft, the T-38 Talon, the N156F had been named Freedom Fighter. Further improvements to make the type truly multi-role included an additional internal fuel tank for added range, and a reconnaissance pack in an interchangeable nose cone. This version was known as the N156C. It also incorporated a strengthened wing to enable external loads to be carried on four wing pylons, instead of the two originally planned.



Bottom: Rather surprisingly for a training unit, the variant of the F-5 operated in least numbers by the 425th with the F-5F. This F-5F is also wearing Royal Saudi Air Force insignia, as Saudi pilots were 'borrowing' 425th aircraft to participate in a Red Flag exercise at Nellis.
(GB Aircraft Slides)

Below: Over the years Williams F-5s have worn a variety of colour schemes. This 425th F-5E is wearing the 'Vietnam' type camouflage pattern prevalent in Tactical Air Command at the time, and the 'LA' tailcode allocated to the 405 TFW. (GB Aircraft Slides)



For over thirty years the international school for F-5 pilots, the 425 TFTS operated from Williams AFB, Arizona. The unit phased out its F-5As in the early 1970s in favour of the E model, but the two seat Bs soldiered on into the '80s. Illustrated is an F-5E in the high visibility scheme worn in the '70s. (Author's collection)



Below: Of the various colour schemes adopted by the aggressor F-5s the desert camouflage most suited operations over the Nellis ranges.
(Ton van Schaik)



Opposite: A pair of Nellis based aggressors landing at CFB Cold Lake where they were participating in the Maple Flag exercise, which is the Canadian equivalent to Red Flag.

Below: The last two digits of the serial highlighted denote this aircraft as the one allocated to the commander of the 57 TFW. Individual squadron markings are not carried by aircraft of the 64th and 65th Aggressor Squadrons, though the 57 TFW's distinctive black and yellow checks are displayed on the fin.





Below: A rare shot of an F-5F belonging to the 57 TTW.



Below: Sitting at the holding point at Clark, this 26 AS aircraft awaits the groundcrews for a last chance check. The aircraft is carrying a Sidewinder acquisition round on the port wing tip. Note that the nose is in the raised position for take-off.



Below This 1975 build F-5E was one of the embargoed Ethiopian aircraft
The striking green brown and tan camouflagage pattern was officially
known as Snake



Opposite: Silver painted F 5E proclaiming to be the mount of the 26th Aggressor Commander. Silver was one of the five paint schemes adopted for the aggressor fleet.

Below: Seven aircraft of the 26 AS at rest on the Kadena ramp. The unit had just completed a three-week deployment flying DACT against the based F 15 squadrons. Note the variety of colour schemes.





USAF
01389

U.S. AIR FORCE

USAF

26
11th TFW
COMBATTING



Below: Shades of blue would be an apt title for the attractive scheme of this Clark based aircraft. The Russian style two digit modex on the nose adds to the effect.



Below: The toned down low visibility markings tend to be difficult to discern amongst the shades of blue on aircraft 0.535 at the 521 AS on the taxiway at Alconbury







Opposite: Taxiing clear of the Alconbury runway is a Tiger II in the Ghost colour scheme of grey and blue.

Below: A 52nd AS F-5E with long range fuel tank on the runway at Alconbury.







Opposite: A pair of 527 AS Tiger IIIs on final approach to their Alconbury base

Below: Against a cloudy background this light grey scheme makes this 527th machine almost invisible





Opposite The gear retracts as this 527 AS F 5E lifts off from Sculthorpe for a DACT mission against Spangdahlem based F 4G Phantoms.

Below Silver 49 flaring for touchdown





Opposite: The green, brown and tan scheme is officially known as 'Snake'. Aircraft 01551 of the 527 AS was photographed at RAF Wyton.

Below: With an ACMI pod on the starboard wing tip this 527 AS F-5E crosses the Sardinian coast on recovery to Decimomannu.
(Author's collection)





Opposite Photogenic Tiger II in the 'Snake' camouflage scheme on the taxiway at Alconbury. The squadron used the callsign 'Baron' taken from that well known First World War ace

Below With undercarriage retracting, aircraft 01560 climbs out of Alconbury for another encounter over the North Sea. A previous adversary, Eskadron 726 of the Royal Danish Air Force have left their mark in the shape of their unit insignia above the port wing root



Below: The non-standard European aggressor scheme on this 527th machine could perhaps be explained by the fact it was a recent attrition replacement from Nellis.



Below: This F-5E in an unusual tan and green camouflage belongs to the FWS at Miramar, where it was photographed touching down. This unit now operates the F-16N alongside A-4 Skyhawks in the aggressor role.



Below Shown the forward ramp with A-1 Intruders and F-4 Phantom II's
is this F-4E of VF-43 Chaperones. This was last seen in 1982 and was
Tiger II's



Below: An interesting array of stores on the wing pylon of this CF-5D on the ramp at Cold Lake. The 'X' on the rudder of this aircraft, the first CF-5D built, denotes it belongs to the AETE (the 'X' standing for experimental)



Overleaf After gaining their wings on the CT-14 Tutor, CAF pilots destined for the CF-18 must successfully complete an advanced flying course on the CF-5. Part of the syllabus includes air to air refuelling from the two specially adapted Boeing CC-135s. Here a student approaches the drogue basket trailed from the CC-135 whilst the instructor looks on from a forming CF-5D.

Opposite In 1989 419 Moose Squadron painted this CF-5A in special markings to commemorate a squadron anniversary. Note the Moose painted on the fin - CAF.

Below right To complement the Moose on the fin, a giant sized Maple leaf adorns the underside of this aircraft - CAF.







Opposite: An impressive shot of an AETE CF-5A during a ground attack training mission. Note the cameras in the reconnaissance nose.
(AETE CAP)

Below: An AETE CF-5D acting as chase plane formates on a CT-33A.
(Peter Foster)







Opposite: The streamlined fuselage and thin wing are evident in this shot of a CF 5D on the Cold Lake flightline.

Below: Note the dummy canopy painted on the undersides of this aggressor CF 5D of 409 Squadron. This features on CAF CF 18 aircraft also, and helps to confuse an adversary during air-to-air combat.







Opposite: A gaily coloured CF 5D of 419 Squadron in aggressor markings

Below: A few CF 5Ds retain their natural metal finish, such as this 419 Squadron machine over the Pemirose Lake training area. The serial number 116841 on the fin denotes it is the forty first CF 5D built. The official CAF designation for the F 5 is the CF 116, and serial numbers of single seaters began with the figure seven, and eight for the two seat D model.





Overleaf: A CF-5A of 433 Squadron about to land at its Bagotville base. For some reason this unit carried the unit badge on the port intake only. This unit currently operates the CF-18 Hornet. (Peter Foster)

Opposite: A 419 Squadron CF-5D taxis from the Cold Lake ramp to participate in a Maple Flag exercise. This camouflage scheme is almost identical to the USAF 'Snake' scheme worn on their aggressor F-5s.

Below: Aircraft of 434 Squadron were easily identifiable due to the blue fin band containing a white schooner, and sometimes used the radio callsign 'Schooner Pirates'.





Below: Although fitted with a brake parachute, the pilot of this 434 Squadron CF SAR has elected not to use it on this occasion, and has kept the nose raised to apply aerodynamic braking during the landing roll at Cold Lake. This photograph was taken in 1984 when the squadron was based at Bagotville but operating from Cold Lake during a Maple Flag exercise.



Below: A two-seater NF 5B of the training unit 313 Squadron landing at Bruggen. This aircraft has since been sold to Turkey





Opposite: This 314 Squadron NF-5A was photographed whilst taking part in the 1988 NATO Tactical Air Meet at Söllingen

Below: A 314 Squadron NF-5A in an attractive blue camouflage scheme



Opposite: Loaded down with three long range fuel tanks, this 313 Squadron NF-5A lands at Waddington where it was deployed for a NATO exercise. In the past few years some of the Dutch NF-5 fleet have received a low visibility grey paint scheme.

Below: The golden centaur of 314 Squadron stands out well on the old camouflage scheme of this NF-5A on the runway at Bruggen.







Opposite: In pristine condition and minus unit markings, this aircraft K-40001 was the first Dutch NF 5A. It spent most of its life with the Test Group at Twente, but is currently in the strength of 314 Squadron.

Below: An NF 5B of 314 Squadron about to touch down at Farnford



Opposite This 315 Squadron NF-5A wears patriotic red/white/blue markings for the 1980 display season.

Below A regular attraction during the airshow season is the Dutch solo NF-5 display. The aircraft selected is usually painted like this 315 Squadron machine, specially for the season.







Opposite A pair of grey painted 316 Squadron aircraft rotate from the Sollingen runway. Note the aircraft nearest the camera is devoid of unit markings.

Below K-3017, a 316 Squadron NF-5A, departs Abingdon carrying a baggage pod on the centreline pylon.



Overleaf Snapped as the tyres are about to make contact with the Druggen runway. K 3025 is an NF 5A of 315 Squadron from Twenthe

Opposite Photographed on the runway at Greenham Common is 315 Squadron NF-5A K-3019. The aircraft was participating in the 1981 International Air Tattoo, hence the attractive, specially applied paint scheme

Below Decelerating with the aid of a brake parachute is an NF-5A of 316 Squadron in an all over grey scheme







Below: All the Norwegian F-5Bs have been through an update programme to extend their lives, and this is perhaps the reason that this aircraft of 336 Skvadron looks so immaculate. Only one of the fourteen F-5Bs delivered has been lost, and all the survivors serve with 336. Very few of the unit's aircraft carry unit markings these days.



Opposite: Sixteen RF 5A reconnaissance variants were delivered to 77 Squadron at Kjeppø, the sole operator until its disbandment in 1980. Thereafter the reconnaissance birds were flown by 336 Skvadron, who operated a large fleet of all three models received by the RNoAF. Norway has now retired all its RF 5As, and six have been transferred to the Turkish Air Force. Illustrated is an RF 5A in 336 Skvadron markings.

Below: Norwegian F 5s carry only the last three digits of their USAF serial numbers, as seen on this 336 Skvadron F 5B at Brønnø.





Opposite: Oerland Air Base near Trondheim is home to 338 Skvadron, which was the last Norwegian unit to convert to the F-16. As an F-5 unit 338 Skvadron aircraft were rare visitors to British airfields, though F-5A 224 was photographed during a visit to Wyton.

Below: With the camouflaged hangar and snow on the ground this photograph could only have been taken in Norway. Despite the absence of unit markings this F-5A belongs to 338 Skvadron at Oerland where the shot was taken. One or two Norwegian F-5s were applied with a green camouflage scheme as an experiment – which was never taken up – hence the colour of the drop tanks.





Below: When the RF 5As were on the strength of 717 Skvadron they always seemed to be devoid of unit markings, as was the case when this aircraft was photographed landing at Brønnøysund. This aircraft has since been transferred to the Turkish Air Force.



Below: St-5B from 732 Escuadrón in the clear blue skies over Western Spain



Overleaf: An Esquadrilha de Patrulhas F-16 displays its "tiger stripes" to the camera.

Opposite: An SF-35 enters the lower atmosphere, the Esquadrilha de Patrulhas F-16 flying in a diamond pattern while the F-16s fly in a loose formation. The camera was underneath the clouds.

Below: The Alouette SF-35 is an aircraft carrier, not a ship, and it's the paint shop at Maritz.







Opposite: A 732 Escuadron SF-5B breaking away from the lead aircraft over a Spanish countryside shrouded in fog.

Below: The unit badge of 211 Escuadron. Sister unit, 212 Escuadron, has the same badge but with a green background.





Opposite: An SF-5B diving earthwards at a great rate of knots. Northrop's nimble lightweight is a delight to fly in.

Below: Rather weather beaten and badly in need of a coat of paint, this 212 Escuadron SF-5A was photographed at Zaragoza where it was deployed to use the nearby weapons ranges.





AE9-033



AE9-033





Below: With undercarriage retracting, this 212 Escuadron SF-5B climbs out of Moron Air Base



Below: Aircraft from the second batch built featured a new flattened more streamlined nosecone, as seen on this aircraft of Fliegerstaffel 1. The remainder of the fleet is also being fitted with the new nose.



Overleaf: A pair of Flurwaffe F-5Es on approach to Dübendorf Air Base on the outskirts of Zurich. The lead aircraft carries the marking of Fliegerstaffel 13.

Opposite: An F-5E wearing the tiger insignia of Fliegerstaffel 11 taxis clear of the runway at Dübendorf.

Below: All Swiss fighters are in the two-tone air superiority grey colour scheme as seen on this Fliegerstaffel 11 F-5E on final approach to Dübendorf.





Opposite As aircraft are frequently rotated between bases many Swiss F-5s do not carry unit markings unlike this machine of Fliegerstaffel 19, which is believed to operate from Alpnach in time of war

Below this F-5E of Fliegerstaffel 13 still has the old nosecone This unit is comprised of reservists, many of whom are Swissair pilots





Opposite: This F-5E, J-3014, was the first one to be assembled by the Federal Aircraft Factory at Emmen, and has since been fitted with the new nosecone. With Fliegerstaffel 18 insignia on the nose it was photographed at its Dubendorf base.

Below: The unit insignia on the nose of this F-5E identifies it as belonging to Fliegerstaffel 18.



Below An F-5F devoid of unit marks at Payerne.



Overleaf: This camouflage scheme is definitely not standard Turkish Air Force pattern. This F-5B is a recent acquisition from the USAF.
(Aad Wever)

Below: Early build F-5A from 5 Jet Base at Merzifon.





Below: With cockpit transparencies covered by brown paper this F-5A is towed to the spray shop at the overhaul facility at Eskisehir. The aircraft belongs to 5 Jet Base at Merzifon.



Below: A Kenya Air Force F-5E photographed on a test flight prior to delivery. (*Northrop*)





Overleaf: The Sudan Air Force took delivery of two F-5Fs in 1982, with ten F-5Es following two years later. The two seaters were photographed on delivery through Prestwick. *Pete Smith*

Opposite: The first F-5F for the Kenya AF on its delivery flight through Prestwick. *Pete Smith*

Below: Morocco operated both the F-5A and F models from its base at Kenitra, and these were supplemented by a small number of ex-Iranian machines including two RF-5A reconnaissance variants. Some of these remain operational, and the F-5 fleet has been expanded by the delivery of sixteen E and four F models in 1981. These have seen action against Polisario guerrillas. Recently a small number of ex-Alconbury based USAF F-5Es have been delivered. Illustrated is an F-5E in desert camouflage. *(GB Aircraft Slides)*





The Tunisian Air Force ordered F-5s in 1982, and soon afterwards took delivery of eight E and four F models. These have since been supplemented by seven ex-USAF F-5Es from Alconbury

Below: Tunisian F-5E in an attractive camouflage scheme on delivery through Alconbury



Below: Sixty six two seater F-16s were license built by AIDC. This one was photographed at a defence exhibition at Taipei-Songshan airport.



The task of air defence of Indonesian territory is undertaken by one unit of Tiger IIs, this being 14 Skwadron, 300 Wing of the Tentara Nasional Indonesia — Angkatan Udara (TNI-AU). This translates to Indonesian Air Force, and the unit which comprises eight E and four F models is located at Iswahyudi AFB, Madiun, which is on the large island of Java.

Opposite: One of 14 Skwadron's colourful F-5Es photographed at Jakarta/Kemayoran airport.

Below: Markings of 300 Wing TNI-AU on an F-5E.







Above Northrop built ROKAF F-5E in USAF Vietnam-type tactical camouflage scheme (*Northrop*)

The Tentara Udara Diraja Malaysia (TUDM), which translates to Royal Malaysian Air Force, uses the F-5E in the air defence role from the former Australian base at Butterworth. These are operated by Nos. 11 and 12 Squadrons. The TUDM initially received two F-5Bs, but these have since been sold to Thailand, and eventually a total of seventeen E, four F and two RF-5Es were delivered.

Opposite An 11 Squadron F-5E at Butterworth (*David Oliver*)





Above Malaysia was the first customer for the RF-5E Tigereye with an order for two the second of which is illustrated prior to delivery
(GB Aircraft Slides)

An early customer for the F-5A was the Philippines Air Force which received nineteen A and three B Models to equip the 6 TFS of the 5 FW at Basa. The first aircraft arrived in 1965 to replace F-86 Sabres in the air defence role. They were later supplemented by F-8H Crusaders, which have since been retired, leaving the F-5s as the sole jet fighter in the Phil AF inventory. Attrition has been heavy, and only eight A and two B models remain at the time of writing. It is likely however that the USAF F-5Es of the 26 AS will be handed over to the Phil AF now that they have been replaced by the F-16.



Opposite: The Blue Diamonds aerobatic team used the F-86 until replaced by the F-5A. The team gave its last performance with the F-5 in the mid 1980s, hence the shabby paintwork on this aircraft.

Below: one of the two remaining F-5Bs of the Phil AF





Above In 1987 the Phil AF started to give its F-5 fleet a badly needed overhaul and coat of paint as seen on these 6 TFS aircraft on the Basa flightline.

One of the most modern and well equipped air arms in South East Asia ■ that of Singapore. With the possible exception of Vietnam, this tiny state is surrounded by friendly countries, yet has a large fleet of well over one hundred A-4, F-5, F-16 and Hunter combat aircraft, and E-2 Hawkeye surveillance aircraft. This inventory of primarily offensive aircraft, added to its absolute paranoia about security, must be making some of its neighbours extremely anxious. The Republic of Singapore Air Force is believed to have received thirty-six F-5Es — including the last batch built, and ten F-5Fs. These are operated by 144 'Lynx' Squadron at Paya Lebar and 149 'Shikra' Squadron at Tengah, and if rumours are to be believed, underground hangars have been built at the latter.

Opposite This 144 Squadron F-5E was photographed on a rare visit to the Malaysian base at Butterworth where it was participating in an exercise. (David Oliver).



Opposite: Singapore F-5s can be seen in this 'jungle' type camouflage or an overall grey scheme. This aircraft of 149 Squadron was photographed at Butterworth in Malaysia. (David Oliver)

Below: An F-5F of 149 Squadron landing at Clark AB







Above: The last three F-5Es built by Northrop seen on delivery through Prestwick en-route to the Singapore Air Force. *Pete Smith*

Deliveries of F-5A/B models to the Royal Thai Air Force initially went to 13 Squadron at Don Muang, which later relocated to Nakhon Ratchasima (formerly known as Korat) and became 103 Squadron. The unit flies the survivors of twenty-four A, four RF-5A and two F-5Bs supplied under MAP, and two B models acquired from Malaysia. Later deliveries comprised thirty-two new E and six F models from the Northrop production line, and a further ten ex-USAF F-5Es. Nakhon Ratchasima is home to the 1st Fighter Wing, comprising 102 and 103 Squadrons, the former operating the newer F-5E. The remaining squadron, which also operates the E model, is 403 Squadron of 4 Fighter Wing at Ta Khli.

Opposite: Wearing colourful aggressor type markings this F-5E belongs to 102 Cobra Squadron, and was photographed at a display at Don Muang. *Chris Forster*



Below: An F-5A of 103 'Tiger' Squadron Royal Thai Air Force.
(Chris Pocock)



LATIN AMERICA

The largest air arm in South America, the Força Aerea Brasileira (FAB) uses the Tiger II to supplement its Mirage III force in the air defence role. Thirty-six F-5Es were

Overleaf: Equipped with AIM-9 Sidewinder missiles, the first FAB F-5Es illustrated on a test flight. *(Northrop)*

Below: A USAF F-5E destined for Brazil with dual markings on the fin. *(Mannesmann)*

delivered to equip 1 and 2 Esquadrao of the 1st Fighter Group at Santa Cruz. Rather strangely, the four two-seaters bought were B rather than F models. The FAB Tiger IIs have refuelling probes fitted to enable them to be in-flight refuelled by Boeing KC-137 and Lockheed KC-130 tankers. Acceptance of ex-USAF aircraft has just been completed, comprising twenty-four E and four F variants.







Opposite In 1981 the Fuerza Aerea Mexicana (FAM) ordered ten F-5Es and two Fs to equip 401 Escuadron at Santa Lucia for air defence duties. The only other jet combat aircraft in the FAM inventory were ageing AT-33 armed trainers. Illustrated is an FAM F-5F (Northrop)

Below The Fuerza Aerea de Chile (FAC) accepted its first F-5E in 1976, eventually receiving fifteen E and three F models to equip 7 Grupo at Antofagasta. These aircraft, like many export Tiger IIs had a dorsal fin fillet for improved manoeuvrability and a VHF blade aerial on the spine, as seen in this view of a 7 Grupo F-5E (Northrop)



Below: The bulk of ex-USAF aircraft delivered have come from the 425 TFW at Williams AFB. One of the aircraft destined for the FAB was photographed on the Williams ramp prior to delivery to Brazil, wearing both FAB and USAF markings. (Maurice Bertrand)



MIDDLE EAST

The Royal Jordanian Air Force (RJAF) has been a member of the F-5 club for many years, initially receiving thirty A and six B models from the IIAF. Fifteen of these have since

Overleaf: A desert camouflaged F-5E of 9 Squadron RJAF

Below: A pair of RJAF F-5Es which participated in the 1981 International Air Tattoo at Greenham Common

been handed on to the Greek Air Force, the remainder serving with 6 Squadron at Mafrak. Numbers 1, 2 and 5 Squadrons also at some stage operated the F-5A. A sizeable force of Tiger IIs have been delivered, and equip 9 and 17 Squadrons at Prince Hassan Air Base, formerly known as H5. Another F-5E unit, No. 11 Squadron at Azraq, is believed to have converted to the Mirage F1.







Above: Heavily loaded with three long range fuel tanks, this F-5E of 9 Squadron RJAF has the nose leg extended by three degrees to decrease the take-off run.

Well over one hundred Tiger IIs equip the Royal Saudi Air Force (RSAF) whilst most of the twenty F-5Bs delivered in 1973 remain on the inventory. Tiger IIs currently serve with 3 and 10 Squadrons at Taif, 15 at Khamis Mushayt and 17 at Tabuk. A previous operator, 7 Squadron at Dhahran, has re-equipped with the Tornado. The RSAF was the second and final customer for the RF-5E Tigereye with an order for ten aircraft for 17 Squadron.

Opposite: An RF-5E Tigereye in Saudi desert camouflage scheme.
(Pete Smith)

Overleaf: The last new customer for Northrop's lightweight fighter was the Bahrain Amiri Air Force who took delivery in 1988 of eight E and four F models. This was the first fixed wing aircraft for the air arm of this Persian Gulf island. These four aircraft were photographed staging through Prestwick en-route to Bahrain's International airport at Muharraq.
(Pete Smith)





Below: At least one RF-5E has been painted in an all-black scheme, and was photographed staging through Prestwick on delivery. Note that this aircraft has a refuelling probe to enable it to refuel from RSAF C-130 and KE-3 tanker aircraft. (Pete Smith)



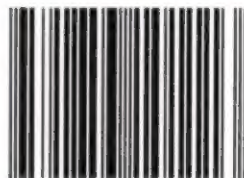


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